

Application Serial Number 10/507,538
Response to Office Action
Dated December 26, 2007

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1. Amendments to the Specification

1. Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

A communication station that is suitable for contactless communication with transponders and with further communication stations and that has first protocol-executing means designed to handle a station-transponder (hereinafter designated station/transponder) protocol, with the aid of which first protocol-executing means communication can be effected between the communication station and at least one transponder while observing the station/transponder protocol, and that has second protocol-executing means designed to handle a station-station (hereinafter designated station/station) protocol that differs from the station/transponder protocol in respect of at least one protocol parameter, with the aid of which second protocol-executing means communication can be effected between the communication station and at least one further communication station while observing the station/station protocol.

2. Kindly replace the three (3) paragraphs beginning at page 3, line 7 with the following amended three (3) paragraphs:

It has proved highly advantageous if, in addition, the features of certain embodiments specified in claims 2 and 6 are provided in a communication station according to the invention and in an integrated circuit according to the invention, respectively. What is advantageously achieved in this way is that, when the communication station is communicating with transponders under the station/transponder protocol, care is taken to see that the transponders are supplied with adequate energy at the start of any such communication, and that, when the communication station according to the invention is communicating with further communication stations under the station/station protocol, care is taken to see that the data processing at the relevant communication stations is satisfactorily synchronized at the start of any such communication.

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It has also proved highly advantageous if, in addition, the features of certain embodiments specified in claims 3 and 7 are provided in a communication station according to the invention and in an integrated circuit according to the invention, respectively. What is achieved in this way is that, when the communication station according to the invention is communicating with at least one further communication station under the station/station protocol, energy consumption that is as low as possible is all that is required at the communication station according to the invention, which is a great advantage, particularly when the communication station according to the invention is contained in a portable unit or in a movable or transportable device and, this being the case, is supplied from a rechargeable or non-rechargeable battery, in which case the design according to the invention then ensures that the battery will have a long endurance.

It has also proved highly advantageous if, in addition, the features of certain embodiments specified in claims 4 and 8 are provided in a communication station according to the invention and in an integrated circuit according to the invention, respectively. What is achieved in this way is that the communication station according to the invention is designed in an advantageously satisfactory way both for, on the one hand, communication with the largest possible number of transponders and, on the other hand, for making a communications connection to further communication stations as quickly as possible.

3. Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 25, with the following amended paragraph:

The first protocol-executing means 12 are designed to handle the station/transponder protocol. With the aid of the first protocol-executing means 12, communication can be effected between the communication station 1 and at least one transponder while observing the station/transponder protocol. One special attribute of the first protocol-executing means 12 is that they have the energy-supply signal generating

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means 16, which are designed to generate the energy-supply signal BURST each time the station/transponder protocol starts to be handled. A further special attribute of the first protocol-executing means 12 is that they are arranged to handle a station/transponder protocol[.], ~~which The protocol is designed with a view to communication to communicate with the largest possible number of transponders during a protocol process.~~

4. Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The second protocol-executing means 13 are designed to handle the station/station protocol. By means of the second protocol-executing means 13, communication can take place between the communication station 1 and at least one further communication station while observing the station/station protocol. The second protocol-executing means 13 are advantageously so produced in this case that they have the synchronizing-signal generating means 22 that are designed to generate the synchronizing signal SYNC each time the station/station protocol starts to be handled. The second protocol-executing means 13 are advantageously arranged in the case of the communication station 1 to handle a station/station protocol that is designed with a view to causing to cause only the least possible energy consumption at the communication station 1 when communicating with at least one further communication station. The arrangement is also advantageously such in the present case that the second protocol-executing means 13 are designed to handle a station/station protocol that is arranged to make a communications connection to at least one further communication station as quickly as possible.